

Message Text

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ACTION SCSE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3463

UNCLAS MEXICO 3008

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CPRS, MX

SUBJECT: RETURN OF STOLEN VEHICLES

REF: MEXICO 2627

1. ON MARCH 4, CCS CHIEF DANIELS AND CONSUL HUDSON CALLED ON DIRECTOR GENERAL OF FEDERAL AUTOMOBILE REGISTRY, ING. ENRIQUE CASTRO PAEZ, TO DISCUSS IACAT PROPOSAL. DANIELS CITED 1936 CONVENTION, STATISTICS ON NUMBER OF AUTO-MOBILES STOLEN IN US WHICH END UP IN MEXICO AND THE DIFFICULTIES WHICH NATB HAS EXPERIENCED, CASTRO INTERJECTED THAT IT WAS COSTING MEXICAN GOVERNMENT GREAT DEAL OF MONEY. TO PROPOSAL ITSELF, CASTRO WAS IMMEDIATELY NEGATIVE. HE INQUIRED, AS HE DID AT LEAST TWO MORE TIMES DURING COURSE OF CONVERSATION, WHETHER DANILES THOUGHT HE WANTED TO KEEP CARS. DANIELS ASSURED HIM THAT PROBLEM WHICH PROPOSAL WOULD HELP SOLVE WAS THAT OF LOCATING STOLEN AUTOMOBILES AND THAT CASTRO AND MEXICAN GOVERNMENT WERE NOT SUSPECTED OF DESIRING TO RETAIN VEHICLES.

2. CASTRO THEN SUGGESTED THAT IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE TO LOCATE STOLEN CARS WITHOUT THE NEED OF INSPECTION OF REGISTRY PARKING COMPOUNDS IF HE WERE FURNISHED WITH A LIST OF SUCH CARS. DANIELS AGREED THAT THIS MIGHT BE A POSSIBILITY, BUT ASKED HIM TO CONSIDER IACAT PROPOSAL. HE POINTED OUT THAT HAVING SEARCH MADE BY NATB REPRESENTATIVE UNDER IACAT MIGHT SERVE

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TO SAVE GOM MONEY. CASTRO RAISED OTHER OBJECTIONS.

FIRST WAS ENORMOUS NUMBER OF CARS INVOLVED, UP TO 2,000 CARS IMPOUNDED EACH DAY THROUGHOUT MEXICO, MOST OF THEM NOT STOLEN FROM U.S. SECOND WAS FACT THAT FEDERAL AUTOMOBILE REGISTRY WAS NOT ONLY GOM AGENCY WHICH IMPOUNDED CARS, THE OTHER INCLUDING CUSTOMS AND FEDERAL, STATE AND LOCAL POLICE, ALL OF WHICH WOULD BE MORE LIKELY TO HAVE STOLEN CARS AMONG THOSE IMPOUNDED.

3. AT CONCLUSION OF CONVERSATION, CASTRO PROMISED TO TAKE MATTER UP WITH HIS SUPERIOS, BUT HE GAVE NO REASON TO BELIEVE THAT HE OULD MAKE FAVORABLE RECOMMENDATION.

4. CONOFFS MET MEXICAN ATTORNEY IN WAITING ROOM PRIOR TO INTERVIEW WITH CASTRO. FOLLOWING INTERVIEW ATTORNEY, WHO HAS OCCASION TO VISIT THE EMBASSY FROM TIME TO TIME, CALLED ANOTHER CONOFF ON ANOTHER SUBJECT BUT MENTIONED THAT HE HAD HEARD OF PROPOSAL PUT TO CASTRO AND THAT IT HAD BEEN TURNED DOWN. DESPITE CASTRO'S COOL RECEPTION, EMBASSY WILL TAKE MATTER TO HIGHER LEVEL.

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